CLAIMS

1. A method of communications employing a predetermined communications protocol defining respective responses to predetermined events, comprising:

separating said protocol into a first group of responses to corresponding first events, and a second group of responses to corresponding second events, wherein said first events occur frequently relative to said second events;

storing said first group at a first communications terminal, storing at least said second group at a store remote from said first terminal, and interconnected therewith via a communications channel;

communicating from said first terminal using said first group of said protocols;

on detecting an event other than one of said first events at said first terminal, signalling event-handling data from said store to said first terminal; and

communicating from said first terminal using said event-handling data.

2. A method according to claim 1, in which, when the detected event is of the group of second events, said event-handling data comprises at least the responses of said second group which correspond thereto.

3. A method according to claim 2, in which the first terminal is arranged to store those responses of said second group received from the store on receipt thereof, for future use in response to further occurrence of the corresponding event.

4. A method according to claim 3, in which the first terminal is arranged to delete said stored responses under predetermined conditions.

5. A method according to claim 4, in which the predetermined conditions comprise non-use of the stored responses for a predetermined period of use.

6. A method according to claim 1, in which said event-handling data comprises data defining instructions for handling the detected event.

A

7. A method according to ~~any preceding claim,~~ claim 1 wherein the protocol is for use of an ISDN communications channel.

8. A communications system comprising;

a first terminal,

a second terminal interconnectable with the first via a telecommunications network, and

a store connected to said network;

in which:

the second terminal is arranged to communicate using a communications protocol defining a set of responses to respective conditions;

the first terminal is arranged to store, and communicate using, a subset of said protocol; and

the store is arranged to cooperate with the first terminal for handling conditions requiring a response within the set but not the subset.

9. A communications terminal for use with a communications protocols defining a set of responses to respective predetermined events, comprising;

a communications port for connection to a communications channel;

a signalling port for connection to a signalling channel; and

a store for storing data defining a core subset of said responses corresponding to a core subset of said events; and

a controller for controlling communications via the communications and signalling ports in accordance with said core subset;

the terminal being arranged to detect events not within said core subset, and to receive event-handling data via said signalling port, and

the controller being arranged to handle said detected events in accordance with said received event-handling data.

10. A terminal according to claim 9, in which said store is rewritable, and the terminal is arranged to store therein data derived from said event-handling data, and corresponding to one or more responses of said set which are not of said core

subset, and the controller is for controlling communications via the communications and signalling ports in accordance with said core subset and said stored additional responses.

11. A terminal according to claim 10, the terminal being arranged to erase said additional responses under predetermined conditions.

12. A terminal according to claim 9, in which said controller is arranged to accept said event-handling data as one or more communications signalling instructions for immediate execution.

13. A terminal according to claim 9, the terminal being arranged to signal said detected events via said signalling port and to receive said event-handling data in response thereto.

14. A terminal according to claim 13, the terminal being arranged to signal, for each said detected event, the internal state of the terminal prior to receipt thereof via said signalling port.

15. A terminal according to claim 9, wherein said store does not comprise a movable magnetic storage medium.

16. A terminal according to claim 15, which lacks a movable magnetic storage medium.

17. A terminal according to claim 9, which comprises a network client terminal.

18. A terminal according to claim 17, which comprises a video output port for co-operation with a television set.